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Letter dated 13 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to submit to you a letter dated 6 June 2017 from the Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz, regarding a video that went viral on both social and electronic media showing a young Kashmiri, Farooq Ahmed Dar, tied to the bonnet of a military jeep as a human shield (see annex). The video gives a glimpse of the most egregious human rights violations by Indian occupation forces in Jammu and Kashmir.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council in connection with the item entitled "The India-Pakistan question".

(*Signed*) Maleeha **Lodhi**

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Annex to the letter dated 13 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Letter dated 6 June 2017 from the Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Foreign Affairs addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am sure that you must have seen the video of the young Kashmiri, Farooq Ahmed Dar, tied to the bonnet of a military jeep leading a convoy through central Kashmir's Budgam district that went viral on both social and electronic media. The victim, a resident of the village of Chilbrass in Budgam, while speaking to the media, stated that soldiers from the Indian army's 53 Rashtriya Rifles unit had grabbed him in the village of Utligam, beat him up and dipped him several times in the cold water of a stream before tying his unconscious body to the bonnet of an army jeep.

An inquiry was launched into Major Leetul Gogoi, the officer who conducted the operation, presumably to relieve pressure on the Indian armed forces. However, even before the inquiry had been completed, he was awarded a commendation medal by the Indian Army Chief as an endorsement of his actions. The top officials of the Indian Government have reportedly defended and expressed appreciation for Major Gogoi. The Attorney General of India allegedly said that he saluted him for his presence of mind. The National Secretary-General of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Ram Madhav, on 20 April complimented Major Gogoi, saying "everything is fair in love and war".

While human rights activists and organizations all over the world, including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, have condemned this inhumane practice of using human shields, we have seen disturbing statements by the Indian Army Chief justifying this heinous act. In his interview with the Press Trust of India, he stated that the Indian army was facing a "dirty war" in Jammu and Kashmir that had to be fought with "innovative" ways. In an apparent endorsement of the use of human shields, he further said: "I have to maintain the morale of my troops who are operating there. In fact, I wish these people, instead of throwing stones at us, were firing weapons at us. Then I would have been happy. Then I could do what I (want to do)." He is also reported to have said that the main objective of giving an award to Major Gogoi when a court of inquiry was finalizing its probe into the incident was the following: "to boost the morale of young officers of the force who are operating in a very difficult environment. This is a proxy war and proxy war is a dirty war. It is played in a dirty way. The rules of engagement are there when the adversary comes face-to-face and fights with you. It is a dirty war. That is where innovation comes in. You fight a dirty war with innovations."

Similar laudatory sentiments were expressed by the Chief Minister of Indian Punjab, Amarinder Singh, in an article published in the *Indian Express* on 20 May 2017, where he justified this inhumane act, stating that the "Major Gogoi episode is clearly and unequivocally in favour of the officer, who only did what was absolutely correct, and possibly the only sane and logical course of action available to him, in the circumstances". Justifying the use of an innocent Kashmiri as a human shield in stark contravention of basic human rights and international conventions, including but not limited to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, reflects the deep approval that this barbaric act of State terrorism by India has in the latest among the chain of continuing human rights violations in Indian-occupied Kashmir by Indian occupation forces. Allowing selective moral intuition to justify

bludgeoning innocent Kashmiris with pellet guns, blinding hundreds, including children and young girls, or now using them as human shields is deplorable and has no place in the civilized world of today.

The practice of using human shields under any pretext is illegal under the national law of all civilized nations and under international law. Mr. Dar was driven around to make a larger point directed at those Kashmiri civilians who dare to differ with the Indian-occupied state. The brutal dehumanizing violence against Kashmiris in Indian-occupied Kashmir has unfortunately become a matter of routine.

Indian actions have no place in the civilized world of today. The world has to a duty to speak up and speak out against the gross human rights violations of the innocent Kashmiris by Indian occupation forces.

I call upon you to look into the matter and urge India to put an immediate stop to the bloodshed in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

(*Signed*) Sartaj **Aziz**